

Claims

1. A videophone interpretation system where an interpreter interprets a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee using different languages, said videophone interpretation system comprising connection means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal and an interpreter terminal, and communication means for communicating a video and an audio between the terminals connected by said connection means, characterized in that

said connection means includes an interpreter registration table where at least the language types interpretable by an interpreter and the terminal number of the interpreter are registered, a function to accept a call from a caller terminal, a function to acquire the terminal number of a callee, language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the callee terminal for which said call was accepted, a function to extract the terminal number of the interpreter terminal by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee, a function to call the interpreter terminal by using the terminal number of said interpreter extracted, and a function to call the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee and that said communication means transmits to said caller terminal a video including at least a video from said callee terminal and

an audio including at least an audio from said interpreter terminal, a function to transmit to said callee terminal a video including at least a video from said caller terminal and an audio including at least an audio from said interpreter terminal, and a function to transmit to said interpreter terminal an audio including at least an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said callee terminal.

2. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 1, characterized in that said communication means includes a function to transmit to said caller terminal a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said callee terminal as a main window and a video from said interpreter terminal as a subwindow, a function to transmit to said callee terminal a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said caller terminal as a main window and a video from said interpreter terminal as a subwindow, and a function to transmit to said interpreter terminal a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said caller terminal and a video from said callee terminal.

3. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 1 or 2, said communication means including a first audio transmission function to synthesize an audio from said callee terminal and an audio from said interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to said caller terminal, a second audio

transmission function to synthesize an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to said callee terminal, a third audio transmission function to synthesize an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said callee terminal and transmit the resultant to said interpreter terminal, and an unnecessary side audio suppression function to suppress an unnecessary side audio either an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said first audio transmission function or an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said second audio transmission function, based on a command from said interpreter terminal, characterized in that

said first audio transmission function includes a callee audio suppression function to suppress an audio from said callee terminal when an audio from said interpreter terminal is detected and that said second audio transmission function includes a caller audio suppression function to suppress an audio from said caller terminal when an audio from said interpreter terminal is detected.

4. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 1 or 2, said communication means including a first audio transmission function to selectively transmit either an audio from said callee terminal or an audio from said interpreter terminal to said caller terminal, a second audio transmission

function to selectively transmit either an audio from said caller terminal or an audio from said interpreter terminal to said callee terminal, a third audio transmission function to synthesize an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said callee terminal and transmit the resultant to said interpreter terminal, and an unnecessary side audio suppression function to suppress an unnecessary side audio either an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said first audio transmission function or an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said second audio transmission function, based on a command from said interpreter terminal, characterized in that

said first audio transmission function includes a function to shut off an audio from said callee terminal and transmit an audio from said interpreter terminal when an audio from said interpreter is detected and that

said second audio transmission function includes a function to shut off an audio from said caller terminal and transmit an audio from said interpreter terminal when an audio from said interpreter terminal is detected.

5. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said communication means includes a first audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing on an audio from said callee terminal and an audio from said interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to

said caller terminal, a second audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing on an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to said callee terminal, a third audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing on an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said callee terminal and transmit the resultant to said interpreter terminal, and

an unnecessary side audio suppression function to suppress an unnecessary side audio either an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said first audio transmission function or an audio from the interpreter terminal supplied to said second audio transmission function, based on a command from said interpreter terminal.

6. The videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 through 5, characterized in that said communication means includes a function to record a video including a video from said caller terminal, a video from said callee terminal and a video from said interpreter terminal and an audio including an audio from said caller terminal, an audio from said callee terminal and an audio from said interpreter terminal, and a function to reproduce and transmit the recorded video and voice in response to a request made by a terminal.

7. A videophone interpretation system where a videophone

conversation between a caller and a callee using different languages is interpreted by a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee to the language of the caller and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, said videophone interpretation system comprising connection means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal and a second interpreter terminal and communication means for communicating a video and an audio between the terminals connected by said connection means, characterized in that

said connection means includes an interpreter registration table where at least the language types interpretable by an interpreter and the terminal number of the interpreter are registered, a function to accept a call from a caller terminal, a function to acquire the terminal number of a callee, language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the caller terminal for which said call was accepted, a function to extract the terminal number of the first interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from said acquired language type of the callee and language type of the caller, a function to call the first interpreter by using said terminal number of the interpreter extracted, a function to extract the terminal number of the second interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from said acquired language type of the caller and language

type of the callee, a function to call the second interpreter by using said terminal number of the interpreter extracted, and a function to call the callee terminal by using said acquired terminal number of the callee, and that

said communication means includes a function to transmit a video including at least a video from said callee terminal and an audio including at least an audio from said first interpreter to said caller terminal, a function to transmit a video including at least a video from said caller terminal and an audio including at least an audio from said second interpreter to said callee terminal, a function to transmit an audio including at least an audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal, and a function to transmit an audio including at least an audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal.

8. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 7, characterized in that said communication means includes a function to transmit a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said callee terminal as a main window and a video from said first interpreter terminal as a sub window to said caller terminal, a function to transmit a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said caller terminal as a main window and a video from said second interpreter terminal as a sub window to said callee terminal, a function to transmit a video obtained by

synthesizing a video from said callee terminal and a video from said caller terminal to said first interpreter terminal, and a function to transmit terminal a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said caller terminal and a video from said callee terminal to said second interpreter.

9. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 7 or 8, said communication means including a first audio transmission function to synthesize an audio from said callee terminal and an audio from said first interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to said caller terminal, a second audio transmission function to synthesize an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said second interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to said callee terminal, a third audio transmission function to transmit at least an audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal, and a fourth audio transmission function to transmit at least an audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal, characterized in that

said first audio transmission function includes a callee audio suppression function to suppress an audio from said callee terminal when an audio from said first interpreter terminal is detected and that

said second audio transmission function includes a caller audio suppression function to suppress an audio from said caller

terminal when an audio from said second interpreter terminal is detected.

10. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 7 or 8, said communication means including a first audio transmission function to selectively transmit either an audio from said callee terminal or an audio from said first interpreter terminal to said caller terminal, a second audio transmission function to selectively transmit either an audio from said caller terminal or an audio from said second interpreter terminal to said callee terminal, a third audio transmission function to transmit at least an audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal, and a fourth audio transmission function to transmit at least an audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal, characterized in that

said first audio transmission function includes a function to shut off an audio from said callee terminal and transmit an audio from said first interpreter terminal when detecting an audio from said first interpreter terminal and that

said second audio transmission function includes a function to shut off an audio from said caller terminal and transmit an audio from said second interpreter terminal when detecting an audio from said second interpreter terminal.

11. The videophone interpretation system according to claim 7 or 8, characterized in that said communication means includes a first audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing on an audio from said callee terminal and an audio from said first interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to said caller terminal, a second audio transmission function to perform audio multiplexing on an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said second interpreter terminal and transmit the resultant to said callee terminal, a third audio transmission function to transmit at least an audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal, and a fourth audio transmission function to transmit at least an audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal.

12. The videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 7 through 11, characterized in that said communication means includes a function to record a video including a video from said caller terminal, a video from said callee terminal, a video from said first interpreter terminal and a video from said second interpreter terminal and an audio including an audio from said caller terminal, an audio from said callee terminal, an audio from said first interpreter terminal and an audio from said second interpreter terminal, and a function to reproduce and transmit the recorded video

and voice in response to a request made by a terminal.

13. The videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 through 12, characterized in that selection information for selecting an interpreter is registered in said interpreter registration table and that

said connection means includes a function to acquire the conditions for selecting an interpreter from said caller terminal and a function to extract the terminal number of an interpreter who satisfies said acquired selection conditions by referencing said interpreter registration table.

14. The videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 through 13, characterized in that an availability flag to indicate whether an interpreter is available is registered in said interpreter registration table and that

said connection means includes a function to reference an availability flag in said interpreter registration table to extract the terminal number of an available interpreter.

15. The videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 through 14, characterized in that said connection means includes a function to generate a text message to be transmitted to each of said terminals and that

said communication means includes a function to transmit

said generated text message to each of said terminals.

16. The videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 through 15, characterized in that said connection means includes a function to generate a voice message to be transmitted to each of said terminals and that

said communication means includes a function to transmit said generated voice message to each of said terminals.

17. A videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 through 16, characterized in that said connection means includes a function to register a term used during a conversation based on a command from each of said terminals and a function to extract said registered term and generate a telop based on a command from each of said terminals and that

said communication means includes a function to transmit said generated telop to each of said terminals.

18. A videophone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 through 17, characterized in that accounting information on an interpreter is registered in said interpreter registration table and that said connection means includes a function to measure the time that said caller terminal or callee terminal obtains an interpretation service and a function to calculate a fee from said measured time and accounting

information registered in said interpreter registration table.

19. A videophone interpretation method where an interpreter interprets a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee using different languages,

said method using an interpreter registration table where at least the language types interpretable by an interpreter and the terminal number of the interpreter are registered, characterized in that said method comprises steps of

accepting a call from a caller terminal, acquiring the terminal number of a callee, language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the caller terminal for which said call was accepted, extracting the terminal number of the interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee, calling the interpreter terminal by using the terminal number of said interpreter extracted, calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee,

transmitting a video including at least a video from said callee terminal and an audio including at least an audio from said interpreter terminal to said caller terminal, transmitting a video including at least a video from said caller terminal and an audio including at least an audio from said interpreter terminal to said callee terminal, and transmitting an audio

including at least an audio from said caller terminal and an audio from said callee terminal to said interpreter terminal.

20. A videophone interpretation method where a videophone conversation between a caller and a callee using different languages is interpreted by a first interpreter who interprets the language of a callee into the language of a caller, and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee,

said method using an interpreter registration table where at least the language types interpretable by an interpreter and terminal number of the interpreter are registered, characterized in that

said method comprises steps of accepting a call from a caller terminal, acquiring the terminal number of a callee, language type of the caller and the language type of the callee from the callee terminal for which said call was accepted, extracting the terminal number of a first interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the callee and language type of the caller, calling the first interpreter terminal by using the terminal number of said first interpreter extracted, extracting the terminal number of a second interpreter by referencing said interpreter registration table from the acquired language type of the caller and language type of the callee, calling the second

interpreter terminal by using the terminal number of said second interpreter extracted, calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee,

transmitting a video including at least a video from said callee terminal and an audio including at least an audio from said first interpreter terminal to said caller terminal, transmitting a video including at least a video from said caller terminal and an audio including at least an audio from said second interpreter terminal to said callee terminal, transmitting an audio including at least an audio from said callee terminal to said first interpreter terminal, and transmitting an audio including at least an audio from said caller terminal to said second interpreter terminal.